

## NEW DESCRIPTIONS

### A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OPIUS* WESMAEL (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) FROM INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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(With three text-figures)

**Key words:** Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Opiinae, *Opius* (*Utetes*) sp. nov.

*Opius* (*Utetes*) *fischeri* sp. nov. is described and illustrated.

#### INTRODUCTION

Wesmael (1835) erected the genus *Opius* (Subfamily: Opiinae) with the type species *Opius pallipes* Wesmael, which was designated as the type by Muesebeck and Walkley (1951). Fischer (1964, 1965) revised the genus entirely. The taxonomy of this genus was also attempted by Fischer (1971, 1972) and Marsh (1974).

Fischer (1988) divided *Opius* into three subgenera (namely *Aulonotus* Ashmead, *Utetes* Foerster and *Gastrosema* Fischer), and also provided a key to the groups and species of *Utetes* for the Indo-Australian and Ethiopian regions.

In the present work, *Opius* (*Utetes*) *fischeri* sp. nov. is described on the material collected in India: Maharashtra: Ahmednagar.

The new taxon runs close to *Opius* (*Utetes*) *buloloensis* Fischer and has been included in the key to the species of *alutaceus* group of *Opius* (*Utetes*) by Fischer (1988). This key, which is originally in German, has been provided here in English.

Types are deposited in the Entomological collection of the Department of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

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#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF SUBGENUS *UTETES* FOERSTER GROUP *O. ALUTACEUS* BY FISCHER (1988)

1. Mesoscutum mainly sparsely pubescent, lateral lobe appears almost bare ..... 2
- Mesoscutum bare, except along the notauli, pubescent ..... 10
2. Clypeus 3x as broad as long; ovipositor sheath of female as long as abdomen, the projecting part of the ovipositor longer than half the abdomen, 3.5 mm, South Africa .....  
..... *O. trichomaticus* Fischer
- Clypeus almost 1.7x as broad as long; ovipositor sheath of female almost as long as the first tergite ..... 3
3. Head and face with small hairs, hair punctures not recognisable, r3 2x as long as r2 ..... 4
- Head and face with dense and small punctures and small hairs; r3 1.5-1.66x as long as r2 ..... 9
4. First tergite 1.2x as long as wide basally, 2.3 mm, New Guinea ..... *O. gregori* Fischer
- First tergite 1.5x as long as broad or longer ... 5
5. Head, thorax and abdomen yellowish-red, 2.7 mm, New Guinea .... *O. buloloensis* Fischer
- Head, thorax and abdomen differently coloured ..... 6
6. Body yellowish-brown, 5.7 mm, India: Maharashtra ..... *O. fischeri* sp. nov.
- Body completely dark or thoracic divisions black and abdominal divisions white ..... 7
7. r2 1.5x as long as cubital; first tergite 1.5x as long as broad, basally, longitudinally striate as a rule, 2.3 mm New Guinea .....  
..... *O. gregoriformis* Fischer
- r2 1.7x as long as cubital or longer; first tergite 2x as long as broad, basally, longitudinally striate or not ..... 8

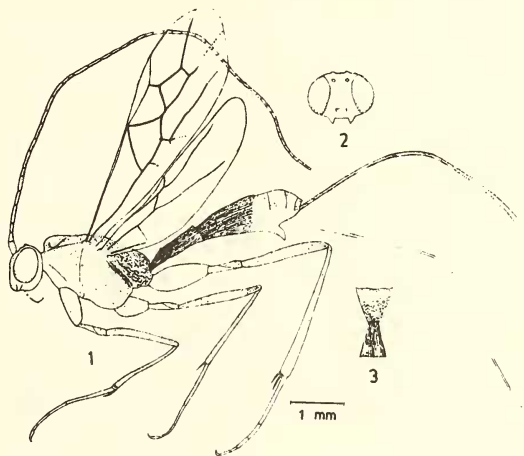
8. r2 2.2x as long as cubital; head and thorax completely black, legs yellow; first tergite black, rest brown, 2.5 mm, New Guinea ..... *O. neogregori* Fischer
- r2 1.7x as long as cubital; head and anterior part of thorax red; legs black and anterior half of the abdomen white, 2.0 mm, New Guinea ..... *O. albipus* Fischer
9. Thorax 1.5x as long as high; first tergite 1.5x as long as broad basally, 3.0 mm, Philippines ..... *O. pilosidorsum* Fischer
- Thorax 1.3x as long as high; first tergite as long as wide basally, 2.1 mm, New Guinea ..... *O. arcithorax* Fischer
10. Second tergite rugose or striated ..... 11
- Second tergite smooth ..... 13
11. r2 arising from behind the middle of the stigma, 3.5 mm, Zaire ..... *O. prophyllactius* Fischer
- r2 arising from before the middle of the stigma ..... 12
12. r2 about one third longer than cubital, second tergite striate; ovipositor projects out slightly, 2.6 mm, New Hebrides ..... *O. cheesmanae* Fischer
- r2 almost 2x as long as cubital; ovipositor sheath about one third of the body length, 2.1 mm, Madagascar ..... *O. alutaceus* Granger
13. Thorax 1.7x as long as high, 3.4 mm, S. Africa ..... *O. extendithorax* Fischer
- Thorax 1.25-1.33x as long as high ..... 14
14. r2 2 x as long as cubital, 3.8 mm, Philippines .  
..... *O. infernalis* Fischer
- r2 almost 1.5x as long as cubital ..... 15
15. Mesoscutum strongly continuously punctate; notauli distinct; middle lobe separated; thorax 1.25x as wide as long, 3.4 mm, Taiwan .....  
..... cf. *O. fulvifacies* Fischer
- Mesoscutum punctate; notauli with small punctures; mesoscutum as long as broad, 1.9 mm, Madagascar ..... *O. mediorufus* Granger

***Opius (Utetes) fischeri* sp. nov.**  
(Figs 1-3)

**Female:** Length 5.7 mm. (Fig. 1). Head (Fig. 2) 0.5x as long as wide; vertex smooth, sparsely pubescent; ocelli in triangle, with broad base, on a black oblong spot; ocello-ocular distance same as inter-ocellar distance; frons

narrow, smooth, pubescent; face 0.7x as long as wide, convex, depressed medially, shiny, moderately punctate, pubescent; clypeus 2x as wide as long, convex, shiny, moderately punctate, pubescent; clypeal fovea distinct; malar space 0.6x width of mandible; mandible 1.6x as long as wide, bidentate; eye 1.5x as long as wide, bare; interorbital distance 0.8x as long as height of the eye; antenna 2 + 47 segmented; scape 1.7x as long as wide, smooth, weakly punctate, pubescent; pedicel 0.8x as long as wide, smooth, weakly punctate, pubescent; penultimate segment 1.5x as long as wide; terminal segment 2.5x as long as wide; first flagellar segment 7.7x as long as wide; second flagellar segment 0.7x as long as first; occiput not margined.

**Thorax:** 2.3x as long as wide; pronotum shiny, very weakly punctate, pubescent; mesoscutum shiny, convex, very weakly, shallowly punctate, pubescent; notauli distinct, transversely crenulated; scutellum shiny, convex, weakly punctate, pubescent, apex elevated mid-dorsally; propleurum, smooth, shiny, very weakly punctate; mesopleurum smooth, shiny, closely punctate, pubescent; mesopleural suture distinct; mesopleurum rugosely, closely punctate,



Figs. 1-3: *Opius (Utetes) fischeri*, sp. nov., Female,  
1. Lateral view; 2. Head (frontal view);  
3. Propodeum and first abdominal tergite.

pubescent; propodeum (Fig. 3) irregularly reticulate, basal 0.4 rugose, pubescent, spiracle rounded. Hind leg coxa 2.7x as long as wide, sparsely punctate, pubescent; trochanter I 1.4x as long as wide, trochanter II 3x as long as wide; femur 3.8x as long as wide, slender, long, closely punctate, pubescent; tibia 17x as long as wide, closely punctate, pubescent; tibial spur 0.25x as long as basitarsus; basitarsus 0.4x as long as tibia; claw bifid. Fore wing 3.3x as long as broad; stigma 5.7x as long as wide; metacarpus 1.5x as long as stigma; first abscissa of radius 0.5x as long as second; apical abscissa of radius 5x as long as first; second cubital cell with four unequal sides; first intercubitus 2.2x as long as second intercubitus; costa 2.4x as long as stigma; medius 1.7x as long as basal; discoideus 0.6x as long as medius; nervulus slightly inclivous, distad, 1.2x as long as width of stigma; subdiscoideus 0.4x as long as submedius; brachius 3.1x as long as nervulus; margin with fine bristles; hind wing 5x as long as broad; subcostella 1.2x as long as radiella; mediella 6.7x as long as basella; nervellus slightly inclivous, 2.9x as long as submediella; cubitella 1.1x as long as mediella; margin with fine bristles.

**Abdomen:** 4.5x as long as wide; first tergite 2x as long as apical width, strigose, weakly punctate, pubescent; second tergite as long as apical width, strigose, pubescent; third tergite 0.9x as long as wide, strigose, weakly punctate, pubescent; remaining tergites smooth, moderately punctate, pubescent; ovipositor 5.7 mm.; ovipositor sheath as long as ovipositor, with stiff bristles throughout the length.

Yellowish-brown. One oblong spot on vertex, stigma, veins, tips of mandibles and ovipositor blackish-brown; first tergite towards apical region, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh tergites on mid-dorsal side and ovipositor sheath reddish-brown.

**Male:** Unknown.

**Host:** Unknown.

**Holotype:** Female: INDIA: Maharashtra: Ahmednagar, 5.x.1989. On wing, Coll. S.M. Kurhade; antenna, legs and wings mounted on slides and labelled as above.

**Paratypes:** 3 females, data same as holotype.

**Etymology:** The species has been named *fischeri* in honour of Dr. Maximillian Fischer, a well known taxonomist of Braconidae.

**Comments:** In accordance with the key to the Indo-Australian and Ethiopian species of the *Opius* (*Utetes*) *alutaceus* group by Fischer (1988) the new species, *Opius* (*Utetes*) *fischeri* resembles *Opius* (*Utetes*) *buloloensis* Fischer (1988) in the characters: (i) mesoscutum pubescent, (ii) notauli distinct, (iii) ovipositor long, (iv) face pubescent and (v) first tergite longer than apical width; but it differs from it in the following characters: (i) body 5.7 mm (in *buloloensis* body 2.7 mm), (ii) head 0.5x as long as wide, (in *buloloensis* 0.55x as long as wide), (iii) clypeus 2x as wide as long (in *buloloensis* 1.4x as wide as long), (iv) antenna 2 + 47 segmented, (v) propodeum irregularly reticulate, (vi) ovipositor long and (vii) body yellowish-brown (in *buloloensis* body yellowish-red).

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